

Mendocino Unified School District

Bylaws of the Board

Code of Ethics

The position of a Trustee is one of public trust and responsibility. It is his/her duty to rise above partisanship and to keep in mind that he/she represents, at all times, the entire community and that the schools are being maintained for the benefit of the whole public and not for any group or portion. he/she must, at all times, strive to build up and maintain

- A. Work with the Superintendent to establish and maintain a relationship which encompasses mutual trust and support.
- B. Separate the role of the Board as the policy making body from the role of the Superintendent as the chief administrator and implementor of policy.
- C. Model behavior which will cause the Board and the Superintendent to be perceived as an effective and efficient leadership team and which will enhance the image of the District as a leader among schools dedicated to excellence in education.
- D. Encourage the expression of divergent opinions by individual members of the Board, the students, community, and the staff on all issues of concern.
- E. Listen courteously and respectfully and to give full consideration to differing points of view.
- F. Work, without bias, to reach decisions which are in the best interests of all students after carefully reviewing all available information and considering all options, disregarding the efforts of special interest or pressure groups to influence these decisions.
- G. Support all decisions and policies of the Board whether those decisions and policies are made unanimously or by a majority of the Board, and to support staff members who are responsible for implementing those policies and decisions.
- H. Work with the Superintendent to resolve complaints and not to act individually to resolve matters which should be handled by staff or by the entire Board.

Board Bylaw 9271

Bylaw adopted by Board 1/91,
Reviewed 10/17/02

public confidence in the Board, in the staff, and the work being done by the schools for students.

The relationship between the Trustee, teachers, the staff, and the general public should be one of mutual frankness, confidence, and sincerity. To that end, the Board resolves to:

- I. Work through the communications channels established by the Superintendent to gather information on District programs for use in their communications with the community.
- J. Consider the impact upon other Board members and/or the District when dealing with critical issues or sensitive matters.
- K. Clarify when responding to the media or school community groups that the opinions expressed are those of the individual Board member, and not intended to represent the position of the Board nor the District.
- L. Communicate only through a designated spokesperson when one has been selected to represent the Board/District on a specific item or items.
- M. Work through the Superintendent and the Board President to establish and maintain Board communication on all issues of interest to the Superintendent, the Board, and the District.
- N. Recognize that while there is no real authority vested in a Board member except during a legally convened meeting of the Board or when acting on behalf of the Board at their direction, there is a perception of authority derived from the apparent power of the positions; and to avoid making statements that may be perceived as Board policies or decisions.
- O. Focus exclusively on issues, and avoid all personal criticism of staff or of fellow Board members.
- P. Settle matters relating to perceived infractions of this behavior code in a manner designed to exert a positive influence upon future behavior.